United Nations A/54/L.88

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 176
Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects

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Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/233 of 22 December 1989, Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/36 of 28 July 1999 and other relevant resolutions,

Noting with deep concern the accelerating spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which has already infected millions of people worldwide, and the resulting increase in cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),

Recognizing that no country in the world has been spared by the AIDS epidemic, and that 90 per cent of the people living with HIV/AIDS live in the developing world, which has been very severely affected,

Mindful that the AIDS epidemic has become a development crisis in many countries, with devastating consequences for human, social and economic progress, and that the development gains of the past fifty years, including the increase in child survival and in life expectancy, are being reversed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

Alarmed that, despite all efforts, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is having a more severe impact than was originally projected, and recognizing that resources devoted to combating the epidemic at both national and international levels are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem,

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Recognizing that the needs in countries to address AIDS far outweigh both the human and the financial resources being made available and that high-level political commitment is critical to strengthen the response to the epidemic,

1. *Decides* to convene a special session of the General Assembly for a duration of three days in May 2001, to review the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in all its aspects;

2. *Decides also* that the special session will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and observers, as well as States members of the specialized agencies that are not Members of the United Nations, in the capacity of observers;

3. *Urges* Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at a high political level;

4. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future special sessions of the General Assembly;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, to participate at the highest level in the special session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary administrative arrangements towards the convening of the special session;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available all necessary documentation for the special session in a timely manner;

8. *Decides* that the modalities for the preparatory process of the special session should be finalized, at the earliest opportunity, at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

9. *Also decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects".